REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated October 28, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of December 2, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over of U.S. Patent No. 6,407,820 to Hansen et al. (*hereinafter*, "Hansen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,088,462 to Bhogal et al. (*hereinafter*, "Bhogal").

An embodiment of the subject application is directed to a system and method for printing electronic files. An electronic file representative of a document is received as well as a print instruction via an application associated with the electronic file. A print driver is enabled corresponding to at least one associated document output device in accordance with the received print instructions, and a user is prompted, via the print driver, for print setting information corresponding to the electronic file, the printer finishing configuration setting information including at least one of a desired property including stapling, hole punching, output destination, number of copies, orientation, collating, and finishing. In a typical document rendering, such settings are subject to a default setting in a driver, which default setting may be altered in connection with a particular print job. A subsequent re-printing of that job will result in reinstitution of default settings, which may be different than those customized settings used previously. Alternatively, a default setting may be altered, resulting in different settings for subsequent print jobs that are unrelated. The printer finishing configuration setting information data is generated, appended to the electronic file as printer job language commands, communicated with the electronic file to the document output device, and stored in storage of the document output device.

By way of background, printer job language (PJL) is suitably defined by the Computer Support Group, see http://www.csgnetwork.com/hppjl.html:

> Printer job language (PJL) commands provide job level control, unlike PCL and HP-GL/2 (which control the placement of dots on the printed page). The concept is an HP created logical extension of the capabilities of PCL and the older JCL (Job Control Language) from mainframe and mini-computer days. One of the main features PJL offers is the ability to switch printer languages (personalities, if you will) between jobs. Applications supporting PJL can print one job using PCL

and then print the next job using PostScript (or any other support printer language), without any operator intervention. PJL can also command bi-directional communications with the printer, and subsequent decisions from the result of the communication. PJL can request information from the printer such as printer model, configuration, printer status, and job status. PJL also can be used to change the printer's control panel settings (change default settings without actually using the control panel) and modify the message displayed on the control panel.

The printer finishing configuration setting information data is associatively stored with the electronic file such that a subsequent recall of the electronic file automatically retrieves print setting information data associated therewith. The electronic file is converted to an image file, and a print job is created in accordance with the image file and the print setting information data. A user selects a print job for output to at least one selected destination, the at least one selected destination including at least one of a printed copy of the document, an electronic mail inclusive of the image file, and an electronic copy of the image file. At least a first copy of the image file is output, via the at least one document output device, in accordance with received output request data. A second output request is received from the user to output at least a second output of the electronic file. The electronic file and the associatively stored print setting information are retrieved from the storage in accordance with such request, and at least a second copy of the electronic file is output.

The subject application thus teaches a system having an embodiment wherein PJL commands are engrafted to an electronic document, and these PJL commands are interpreted by a sufficiently intelligent document processing device so as to go beyond direct print control, and extend the commands to include a storage of settings along with the document for future use the next time that document is recalled for processing.

Amendment has been made to each of independent claims 1 and 7 to render more clearly the patentable distinctions over Hansen and Bhogal. Hansen requires the creation of a specialized job ticket to facilitate job submission. Conversely, in the amended claims, a driver is invoked and settings are made. These settings are embedded in the PJL, along with commands instructing the device to store the document along with the specialized settings such that they will be available for immediate use the next time the document is recalled. The deficiencies in Hansen relative to the amended claims are not remedied by any additional teachings of Bhogal,

cited as teaching receiving primary and secondary requests for routing print jobs to appropriate printers.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00008.

Respectfully submitted,

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